

# GRADUATE

# news

SPRING 2006

A Newsletter for Graduates & Friends of Queen's University Belfast

in association with

 Ulster Bank

## On the box

If you tuned into BBC television coverage of the Winter Olympics in February then you may have noticed that the Executive Producer was Jonathan Bramley. In fact, if you watch Grandstand, Wimbledon or golf on the BBC there's a good chance that the programme will be produced by the Queen's Computer Science graduate from Co Down. In an exclusive interview with editor Gerry Power, BAFTA winner Jonny Bramley talks to *Graduate News* about his life as a top television producer.




'I graduated from Queen's in 1987 in Computer Science and joined the BBC in London shortly afterwards as a programmer. Two years later I moved into sport production and haven't looked back since,' said Jonny.

Jonathan Bramley was born in Cuckfield, West Sussex in 1963 but moved to Holywood in 1968 where he attended Holywood Primary and later Sullivan Upper schools. His father, Geoff, who died in 1999, was a quantity surveyor and partner in BDP Belfast, while his mother, Jan, still lives in Holywood and is an avid bowls player having recently represented Ireland. Jonny has one brother – Chris; a second, Tim, who studied at Queen's, died in 1989.

After enrolling on a mechanical engineering course Jonny switched faculties, taking maths, psychology and statistics before specialising in computer science. During his industrial year he worked in TV graphics at the Open University.

Jonny's memories of Queen's include 'the Freshers' Ball, the great team spirit during final year, Rag Day, dodgy bands in the Speakeasy and his graduation – when he wore 'a really bad suit'.

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## Pollution Solution

The field of ionic liquids, which promise significant environmental benefits, is currently one of the 'hottest topics' in scientific research.




*Professors Ken Seddon (left) and Jim Swindall with some of the ionic liquids developed by QUILL.*

At the forefront is QUILL, Queen's University Ionic Liquids Laboratories Research Centre, which is pioneering the design of new 'green' technology with the potential to impact on the lives of everyone around the world.

QUILL aims to prevent pollution. It is the only industry-university collaborative research centre in the world to focus on ionic liquids which will not only massively reduce industrial pollution but will also improve working conditions for thousands of people.

With industrial partners including ICI, BP and


Shell, QUILL is acknowledged as the world leader in the creation of designer solvents. The Centre recently picked up a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, in recognition of its achievements.

Ionic liquids can dissolve a wide range of materials including rocks and coal. However, unlike conventional solvents, they do not emit vapours and as such they have major applications in the development of clean technology for manufacturing processes. 

## On the air!

Queen's Radio, otherwise known as QR, launched its new medium wave frequency in February. Now broadcasting locally on 1134mw, the service is still available around the world via the internet on [www.queensradio.org](http://www.queensradio.org).

QR is a station run by students for students. Located on the second floor of the Students' Union it broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can be heard around the campus and in the halls of residence.


The on-air line-up comprises everything from music to sport and 'banter', while the playlist is a blend of mainstream and alternative. 

## Shining Example

Irtaza Waseem Khan from Lahore in Pakistan is the winner of the 2006 British Council's 'Shine-International Student Awards' for Northern Ireland.

Currently studying for a MEng, Irtaza received a special invitation to meet Prime Minister Tony Blair at No 10 Downing Street in April along with the other 11 regional finalists.

In 2004 he was 'Best Student of the Year' nominated by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers when he scored the highest exam mark across the UK.

The Shine Awards showcase the value and life-enhancing opportunities offered through a UK education. 



*Mr Irtaza Waseem Khan with the Prime Minister.*

## Centenary 2008

Queen's graduates – and in particular, members of its graduate associations – will play a central role in plans to commemorate the 2008 centenary of the University's charter.

Events and reunions are currently being planned for November and December, both on campus and around the world, to celebrate the University's 100th birthday.

We are also looking for suggestions that will involve all graduates in a single activity. Those with any ideas, or who are interested in becoming involved or who wish to join an association, are asked to contact Alumni Officer, Gerry Power ([alumni@qub.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@qub.ac.uk)).

## Formula Racing

The 22 student members of Queen's Formula Racing have every reason to be proud of their achievements this year. As well as completing Mechanical Engineering degrees, the students have designed a single seat motorcycle-engined racing car that can boast a 0-60mph time of just 2.9 seconds.

The 4th year team have also successfully undertaken the technical, financial, marketing and operational management of the project.

Late nights and tight deadlines are the norm but are seen as just another challenge. Team communications director Gavin Dunn told *Graduate News*: 'It has been a busy year but well worth the effort. As well as designing a world-class car we have raised an


unprecedented £15,000 through sponsorship to finance the team.

'We have also attended a huge variety of public events such as the Invest NI 'Go for It' Show, the Northern Ireland Motorcycle Festival and World Indoor Trials, as well as playing an integral role in the Regional Final of the F1 in Schools' Competition. These events have all been very useful in promoting both the team and the University



in general and we relish the opportunity to do that.'

Work is currently underway to build the latest car, which will be rigorously tested before travelling to Leicestershire to compete in the International Formula Student competition in

July. The team were the top UK finishers in 2004 and are confident that success can be repeated in 2006. 

*More Formula Racing Team news is available on-line at [www.queens-racing.com](http://www.queens-racing.com)*




*Rebekah Wilson with final year medical student, Julie McConahy, from Lisburn (left) discussing how a syringe works.*

# Patients please!


The School of Medicine and Dentistry has adopted a novel approach to training for its students. The launch of 'Patients as Partners' will see members of the public invited to act as Standardised Patients (SPs) or 'patient actors'.

After training, SPs will undertake role-plays of various patient case studies, work with students who are practising certain skills and assist at exam times in student evaluation. SPs will generally have good communication skills, an interest in education and personal health and be patient with those who are learning new skills. The School aims to have 100 patient actors trained by 2007.

One SP is eight year-old Rebekah Wilson from Belfast. Speaking about the scheme, Rebekah, who submitted an application after seeing 'Patients as Partners' advertised in her local paper said: 'I think it's really important that doctors and dentists can talk to people, especially children. Sometimes we can get a little scared and getting doctors and dentists to practice how to talk to us, and help us tell them where something hurts, is a really good idea.'

Anyone interested in becoming a Standardised Patient should contact Dr Melissa McCullough, 028 9097 2357, or via email at - m.mccullough@qub.ac.uk - for further information. 

Profile:jonnybramley

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After a spell at Plessey Defence Systems an opportunity to work in the BBC Computer Graphics Workshop arose in 1988 and he spent 2 years designing systems for TV news and sport.

'I've always been an avid TV sports fan,' Jonny told *Graduate News*. 'While working in the Computer Graphics department, I met several assistant sports producers and thought that would be my ideal job. Whilst computer programming was my career, sport was my hobby!'

Now living in Ealing in London, and a keen golfer, Jonny keeps a membership at Royal Belfast and maintains links with Queen's by regularly taking part in the annual London Association Golf Day.

'Initially my role consisted of filming and editing features and running replays on outside broadcasts,' he said. 'As a Senior Producer I moved onto directing OBs (golf and Wimbledon) and studios (Grandstand). Now, as Executive Producer I'm more involved in planning and strategy, however I still direct for Grandstand, Wimbledon, golf and most major events - except football,' he added.

Preparations for the Turin Winter Olympics began in 2003 when priorities included finding a location for a studio in the mountains. Following site visits the main operation centre was established in the ski resort of Sestriere.

In addition to regular presenters Sue Barker, Hazel Irvine and Barry Davies, Jonny brought new talent on board to generate more energy and passion in the coverage.

'I thought the style of presentation we aimed for was a great success' said Jonny, 'and the 'street cred' snowboard coverage by commentator Ed Leigh showed just what direction I'd like BBC Sport to go in.'

Jonny wasn't the only former Queen's student involved in the BBC's Olympic coverage: Production Manager, Aileen Gorman, (BA Celtic Languages and Literature, 1995) and Production Executive Val Henry, graduated (BSc in Chemistry, 1986) were part of the team.

Aileen handled planning and logistics - booking hotels, sorting transport as well as liaising with the EBU (European Broadcasting Union) and the local organising committee, while Val looked

after the financial implications of all the innovations in the BBC's coverage.

The Winter Olympics were a great success for the BBC, with viewing figures topping 5 million for the Opening Ceremony. It was the first time the Corporation had a studio on site or a production centre in the mountains as well as in the host city.

The Games also saw the first use of tapeless cameras at a major event and of electronic scripts and e-logging in BBC Sport, though its probably for some pioneering use of the latest visual devices 'StroMotion' and 'SimulCam' that they'll be remembered. StroMotion is an image enhancement system which can show athletes' trajectories in frame-by-frame sequences. SimulCam compares competitors at different times over the same course by compositing them together.


Back at home, news was about to break concerning Grandstand, facing the axe after almost 50 years and with which Jonny has been associated since 1990 when he joined as a trainee.

'To be honest it was on the cards for a long time, though it's only the name that's going; the BBC has a commitment to weekend sport, so we will be branding programmes with the name of the event rather than the all-encompassing Grandstand,' said Jonny.

Arguably Jonny's greatest achievement was being awarded a prestigious Bafta for coverage of Matthew Pinsent's gold medal-winning performance at the Athens Olympics, which he collected live on-air in April 2005.

So what about life after Grandstand?

'I love working for the BBC; it is so varied and the opportunities plentiful, so I am not thinking of leaving. There will still be a requirement for planning and direction of international rugby, golf, Wimbledon and all the other big Grandstand sports,' Jonny said.

And of course, there's always the job of Executive Producer for London 2012 on the horizon... 



# CLASS NOTES

We would love to hear from those interested in including their news in Class Notes. Please get in touch with Gerry Power by email – [editor@qub.ac.uk](mailto:editor@qub.ac.uk)

## 2000s

**Samuel Halliday**, BSc (Physics) 2001, has founded an applied mathematics consultancy in Edinburgh.

Samuel is keen to identify business executives with a maths, physics or computer science degree. Those interested can contact him at - [S.Halliday@thinktankmathematics.co.uk](mailto:S.Halliday@thinktankmathematics.co.uk)

**Angelos Michaelides**, PhD 2000, BSc (Chemistry) 1997, recently received the 2005 European Young Investigator Award to carry out research at Fritz Haber Institute Berlin. He won The Royal Irish Academy Prize for Young Chemists in 2000 and an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship. Angelos can be contacted at - [michaeli@fhi-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:michaeli@fhi-berlin.mpg.de)

## 1990s

**Ciaran McAleenan** MPhil (Civil Eng) 1995 and his brother **Philip**, MSSc (Political Science) 1993, Engineering Partner and Managing Partner respectively of Expert Ease International (EEI) have won the IMHOTEP Trophy at the International Symposium of the ISSA Construction Section on Occupational Health & Safety in Brazil.

**Francis Campbell**, BA (Political Science) 1992, became the British Ambassador to the Holy See in December 2005.

With qualifications from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium and the University of Pennsylvania, he joined the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1997. Mr Campbell was Private Secretary to the Prime Minister from 2001–2003.

**Stephen Hanna**, BA (Psychology) 1991, has been a Police Officer in Northbrook, Chicago, since July 2000. He would love to hear from former classmates at - [stephenhanna@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stephenhanna@sbcglobal.net)

**Niall Cavanagh**, BSc (Computer Science) 1991, was called to the Bar of Ireland in 2005 and now practises on the Eastern Circuit.

After spells with BT, Ericsson and Esat Digifone and qualifying as a Chartered Engineer he obtained first a Diploma in Legal Studies from the Honourable Society of King's Inns, followed by the degree of Barrister-At-Law.

**Paliakarakadu Muhammed Basheer**, PhD (Civil Engineering) 1991, was awarded Fellow of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) in March, becoming only the second person in Ireland to do so. Dr Basheer is a member of the UK Concrete Society, the International Union of Laboratories and Experts in Construction Materials and of the Institution of Engineers (India).

## 1980s

**Declan Billington**, BSSc (Accounting) 1986, took over as Chairman of the CBI Northern Ireland in January, having served as vice-chairman since 2005.

Mr Billington is managing director of John Thompson & Sons and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

**Derek McAuley**, BSSc (Political Science) 1981, has been awarded Companionship of the

Institute of Healthcare Management. Currently Deputy Director at Central Manchester Primary Care Trust (PCT), he has recently been seconded to project manage the merger of the three PCTs in the city.

## 1970s

**Colin Hastings**, BSc (Civil Engineering) 1976 joined West Sussex County Council for 3 years investigating road traffic accidents and amending highway infrastructure before moving to a similar position in Lancashire in 1980. Colin can be contacted at - [colinhastings4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colinhastings4@hotmail.co.uk)

**Colin McDonald**, BSc (Civil Engineering) 1974, has been appointed chief executive of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society. After graduating he moved to W & R Barnett where he headed the Vegetable Oil Division, Precision Liquids.

**Wilson Sibbett**, BSc (Physics) 1970, received an honorary degree from Trinity College Dublin last December. He is Professor of Natural Philosophy in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of St. Andrews and Chief Advisor on Science to the Scottish Executive.

## 1960s

**Rory McShane**, BA 1968, is the new President of the Law Society in Northern Ireland.

The Newry based solicitor is a former president of the Students' Union and of Queen's Graduates' Association. He has served on the Sports Council, the Consumer Council and the Law reform Advisory Committee.

**David Clarke**, LLB 1968, was elected Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in February and takes up office in June.

Rev Clarke attended Ballymena Academy and after Queen's

undertook a theology degree at Magee. He became minister of Terrace Row Church in 1980 and is currently a governor of several schools in Coleraine.

**Patrick (Spud) Taylor** MB 1964 MD 1985, retired as Professor Emeritus, faculty of medicine University of British Columbia in 2001, to write full time. An award short-listed author of fiction set in Northern Ireland Spud will release *An Irish Country Doctor* later this year.

**Michael Adams**, BSc 1963, has been awarded an honorary degree of Doctor in Letters, by Trinity College Dublin. The Four Courts Press publisher received the award in recognition of his contribution to academic publishing in the humanities.

**Gordon Hamilton**, MB BCH BAO 1960, went to Australia after graduation, to work as a GP in Queensland before setting up an Ophthalmology practice on the Gold Coast. He plans to open Burleigh Waters Specialist Centre next year and can be contacted at [vss@bigpond.com.au](mailto:vss@bigpond.com.au)

## 1950s

**Victor Milligan**, BSc (Civil Engineering) 1951, has been made an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Engineers, one of only 35 in the UK. Dr Milligan is a founder of Golder Associates, a global consulting company with offices in Belfast and throughout the UK. He was awarded an honorary degree from Queen's in the 1990s.

In the 50s Victor was a world-class middle distance runner, missing out on a rostrum finish in the 1954 Empire Games to Roger Bannister.

Obituaries are included in the autumn magazine and on-line. Additional Class Notes can also be found on-line.

# Queen's Associations

Belfast

Canada

Dublin

London

Malaysia

Scotland

Singapore

USA

Queen's has a number of graduate associations around the world offering:

- regular events and reunions
- networking opportunities
- benefits package
- personal membership card
- regular communications
- Associations' Supplement

More than this, Queen's associations help graduates to keep in touch with each other.

For an application form please contact Gerry Power ([alumni@qub.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@qub.ac.uk)) or for more information visit – [www.qub.ac.uk/alumni/associations](http://www.qub.ac.uk/alumni/associations).

